

CxO Trust Newsletter - January 2022

News of Note

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It's a new year. For many, that brings a sense of optimism and renewal. There always will be challenges to overcome, yet also goals to hit, achievements to reach.

As we look back on 2021 and a couple of years prior, we certainly have a pretty solid view of some of the cybersecurity areas we'll need to focus on in coming months. Most of us also fully understand that fundamental to these is our respective organizations' digital transformations, their long and committed embrace of cloud.

Cybercriminals and myriad other bad actors, both organized and wholly independent, are aware of these evolving infrastructures, too, of course. They've handily demonstrated their savvy, commitment and fortitude to develop their craft and ensure they use every available digital arrow in their quivers to disable their opponents to get their hands on whatever treasure it is they're seeking.

As CxOs take a view of their digital priorities for the cloud, they're rightly mindful of this ever-evolving threat landscape and that of their own organizational environments, which means a continued and foreseeably interminable hyper-focus on their cloud environments. Undoubtedly there are a few key areas of focus that they're telling us about for quite some time and that we, of course, have been homing in on for just as long.

Top of mind for many of us is a full and well-thought-out adoption of zero trust. Indeed, despite its hype and some unfortunate confusion around the concept, a zero trust approach to cloud security is key to the bedrock of their resilience strategies for their growing cloud-based environments. Not a novel idea to any of us who have been in cybersecurity for a bit, the gist of zero trust at its most basic is to always verify - never trust. The nuances and differences, as is the usual case, can be found in the actual implementations supporting this basic premise.

There are plenty of definitions bandied about having to do with everything from stronger authentication and the implementation of stringent access policies to a more defined network segmentation, the adoption of a data-centric approach when it comes to security controls, and more. It's more than simple product deployment or policy creation, though. We contend that it's a zero-trust philosophy. Done well, it's a philosophy forged in a more strategic mindset that ties an organization's overarching, long-term goals with its appetite for risks to ensure that the technological infrastructure facilitating operations is secure and kept safe yet also made to be dynamic and nimble enough to continually expand and grow with the business.

For many organizations, zero trust has become a bit of a strategic holy grail that they're actively tackling in some form or another as they grapple with the management, growth and secure oversight of their hybrid infrastructures that now include multi-cloud, legacy, SaaS-based and other systems.

Naturally, it's one of the many industry areas that is and has been for some time foremost in our thoughts as well. So, of course, it makes sense that you'll be hearing much more from us on this front. We've already released some research assets in this area and have covered it in other of our offerings, such as our events, educational modules, and additional products. But, we have fresh new programs and activities in store for 2022. Shortly, we will launch related authoritative training opportunities, far-reaching and impactful partnerships, detailed and practical guidance, noteworthy and influential best practices, and still more.

It's a new day, a new year. We'll always have the bad with the good whether we're talking about cybersecurity, cloud or simply the world at large. Here at CSA and for our wider industry, our members, our Chapters and many other partners and constituents, we'll strive to make the latter the greater of our collective experiences every time. It's the journey, after all. We're looking forward to continuing to take on the trek ahead with you.